

## **SELECTION CRITERIA FOR SSA ARTISTIC SWIMMING TEAMS 2026 AND TALENT SQUADS 2027**

**NB These criteria will apply for selection to ALL international events  
identified for 2026 and 2027.**

### **1. Eligibility**

- 1.1. Only athletes registered with, and in good standing with, SSA will be considered for selection.
- 1.2. Selected athletes must be in possession of a South African passport valid for at least 6 months after the end date of the chosen competition and have chosen South Africa as their Sport Nationality. A copy of the athlete's passport must be submitted with entries for SA National Championships/SSA Level 3 2026 to [buitendag.wendy@gmail.com](mailto:buitendag.wendy@gmail.com).
- 1.3. Swimmers (under 18 years) must be in possession of an unabridged birth certificate. A copy of the athletes unabridged birth certificate must be submitted with entries for SA National Championships/SSA Level 3 2026 to [buitendag.wendy@gmail.com](mailto:buitendag.wendy@gmail.com).
- 1.4. Members selected to the team must abide by the SSA Code of Conduct as appended to the SSA Constitution, and agree to, and sign the SSA Athlete / Official Agreement for the event they are selected to attend.
- 1.5. Athletes must be available to travel to and compete at the specified event.
- 1.6. To be eligible for selection for 2026 International events swimmers must compete at SA National Championships or SA Level 3 Championships 2026, SA NAG 2025 as well as participate in the trial events. International events identified for 2026 – World Aquatics Junior Championships, Budapest, Hungary 12-16 August 2026. Youth team – XV Hungarian Open, Budapest, Hungary 2-5 July 2026.
- 1.7. To be eligible for selection for Preparation Squads for 2027 International events swimmers must compete at SA National Championships or SA Level 3 Championships 2026, as well as take part in the trial events. To be eligible for final selection for 2027 International events swimmers will be required to compete at SA National Age group Championships 2026, SA Nationals Championships 2027, as well as participate in further trial events. 2027 International events will be World Aquatics Artistic Swimming Championship in Budapest, Hungary and World Aquatics Youth Championships, TBC.
- 1.8. The scores achieved by athletes at the above competitions will be considered at selection.
- 1.9. Selection will be done in accordance with the athlete's work ethic, physical readiness and suitability with regard to team dynamics and compatibility.
- 1.10. All athletes must be available to swim team routines.



- 1.11. All athletes must be available and committed to training camps, training objectives, and continued assessment protocols, as set in place by the SSA Artistic Swimming Technical Committee prior to departure.
- 1.12. Selection will be in accordance with the SSA Transformation Policy in relation to demographic and gender equity where applicable.
- 1.13. The SSA Executive Committee reserves the right to amend these criteria and circulate such amended criteria.

## **2. Age Group and Team Size**

### **2.1. Team Size**

- 2.1.1. Maximum number of athletes that may be selected is at the discretion of the technical committee and will depend on the standard achieved at the above events.

### **2.2. Age Groups:**

- 2.2.1. Age of the swimmer will be as at the 31 December 2026 for 2026 Teams.  
Age of the swimmer will be as at the 31 December 2027 for 2027 Preparations Squads
- 2.2.2. Swimmers (Female and Male):
  - 2.2.2.1. Senior 15+ (Female and Male)
  - 2.2.2.2. Junior 15-19 (Female) and 15-20 (Male)
  - 2.2.2.3. Youth 13 -15 (Female) and 13-16 (Male)

## **3. Individual Events**

- 3.1. Any athlete/s wanting to be considered for solo or duet must compete in the respective event in the correct age category at SA National Championships 2026.

## **4. Team Events**

- 4.1. Athletes must participate in at least 1 routine event at SA National Championships 2026. Selection for 2027 Teams, athletes will be required to participate at SA National Championships/SSA Level 3 2026, SA National Age Groups 2026 and SA National Championships 2027.
- 4.2. Junior and Senior athletes must participate in the trials event, details to be confirmed.

Youth athletes must participate in the figures event and split tests if required.



Youth athletes aged 15 on 31 December 2026 may participate in Junior and Senior trial events to be considered for selection for Junior or Senior Teams.

Youth athletes aged 15 on 31 December 2027 may participate in Junior and Senior trial events to be considered for selection for Senior Preparations Squads for 2027.

12&U Level 3 athletes wanting to be considered for 2027 International teams must participate in Youth figures and the splits trials event at SA National Championships 2026.

- 4.3. The final team will only be selected after intensive training with regard to team compatibility and matters relating to team-spirit build up.
- 4.4. A swim through may be utilized to determine the final team selection.

## **5. Funding**

- 5.1. Teams selected may qualify for a partial funding.